



LOUISIANA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN DIETETICS AND NUTRITION

November 20, 2015

Louisiana Ethics Administration Program
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

RE: Board Member Conflict of Interest

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Louisiana Board of Examiners in Dietetics and Nutrition (LBEDN) would like to request an advisory opinion regarding conflict of interest or board bias for board members. Currently, a licensure board member is requesting to serve in a leadership position on the Legislative & Public Policy Committee (LPPC) of the national trade association, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). This licensure board member also serves as the liaison to the state affiliate, Louisiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (LAND), on behalf of the licensure board. Her position as liaison requires her to attend LAND, state affiliate, meetings as a representation of the licensure board. She expresses any concerns or legislative changes to the state affiliate on behalf of the licensure board.

The Legislative & Public Policy Committee (LPCC) guides the establishment of the Academy's public policy work including activities related to federal and state public policy, legislative, and regulatory issues.

Functions of this committee include:

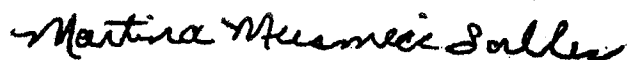
- Oversight of the Academy's advocacy strategies and stances in public policy priority areas.
- Support effective advocacy representations and efforts.
- Participate actively in monthly meetings and during FNCE® and the Public Policy Workshop (PPW).
- Identify Academy expertise and resources in priority areas.
- Identify opportunities to advance nutrition and dietetics in public policy and grassroots initiatives.
- Seek information, positions and guidance of other Academy committees, task forces, workgroups and teams.

The information gathered through the LPPC committee is distributed to all state affiliates, for Louisiana it would be Louisiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (LAND). The LPPC committee also has a Consumer Protection and Licensure Subcommittee (CPLS), which guides the LPPC in discussions and deliberations related to consumer protection and licensure.

This LPPC committee position includes all expenses paid by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), the national affiliate.

The Board has had multiple concerns arise over the last few years related to conflict of interests and/or the appearance of conflicts of interest for board members serving on other committees and/or boards for the national, state and district trade associations while serving as a licensure board member. Therefore, the Board would like to request clarification for future reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Martina Musmeci Salles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martina Musmeci Salles, MPH, RDN, LDN, FAND
Board Chairperson

Attachments:

AND Leadership Directory 2015-2016

AND Committees and Task Force

AND Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC)

AND Consumer Protection and Licensure Subcommittee (CPLS)

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**2015-2016 HOUSE OF DELEGATES AND ACADEMY COMMITTEES
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(January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015)

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Committees and Task Forces

Committees of the Academy provide an opportunity for members to participate in committee work activities that benefit members. Committees are a permanent organizational unit within the structure of the Academy. As of June 1, 2014, committees are no longer designated to be either a HOD, BOD or Joint BOD/HOD committee. Rather, they are referred to as Academy committees of which there are 24 standing committees. All committees are appointed except for three committees which are elected: Board of Directors Executive Committee, HOD Leadership Team, and Nominating Committee.

The Speaker-elect, and the President-elect, in collaboration with staff, appoint committee members annually utilizing the results of the Opportunities to Serve survey conducted in January-February. Appointments are made in March and the membership is notified of these appointments in May. Members are chosen according to expertise, skills and needs of the committee to address its charge.

The Board of Directors may establish a new committee as needed and may disband a committee that no longer meets the overall needs of the Academy. Committees are evaluated every three years by the Board to confirm the need for them to continue or to be modified or disbanded. The Board provides general oversight to all committees; however, committees who addressing a professional issue will confer with the HOD Leadership Team (similar to the role of HOD to govern the profession) and the Board will provide input on organizational issues related to the work of a committee (similar to its role to govern the organization).

All committees establish goals for each program year. The goals are designed to support the strategic plan of the Academy and are shared with the Board of Directors on a yearly basis, along with updates.

Leadership Directory

Committees of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics serve as key working groups selected by the President-elect and Speaker-elect.

Academy Positions Committee

The committee oversees the development process for new positions and regularly reviews and updates existing Academy positions and oversees development of practice papers.

AND Political Action Committee

ANDPAC is a single fund for a common cause, and it is the only political action committee that speaks for food, nutrition and health issues.

Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee serves as the final decision making body for appeals by the Academy and CDR that affect appellant members or applicants for membership.

BOD Executive Committee

The BOD Executive Committee comprises the president who serves as chair, as well as the president-elect, treasurer, treasurer-elect, speaker, speaker-elect, chief executive officer and ANDF chair.

Committee for Professional Development

CPD is responsible for the review and selection of educational sessions for the annual Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo.

Council on Future Practice

CFP will work in collaboration with the Commission on Dietetic Registration and Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics to project the future practice needs for the profession.

Council on Research

The Council on Research will exist to enhance communication and alignment of the Academy's research efforts.

Dietetics Practice Based Research Network Oversight Committee

The DPBRN Oversight Committee oversees the development and implementation of projects and initiatives of the DPBRN.

Diversity Committee

This committee facilitates recruitment of, retention of and leadership development for individuals from underrepresented groups.

Ethics Committee

This three-person committee monitors and enforces the professional Code of Ethics for the profession.

Evidence-Based Practice Committee

The EBPC oversees the development and implementation of evidence-based practice.

Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee recommends allocation of Academy resources to achieve strategic and operating objectives.

Honors Committee

The Honors Committee is responsible for reviewing nomination packets and recommending recipients for the Academy's national honors and awards.

House of Delegates Leadership Team

HLT, which is made of the speaker-elect, past speaker and current speaker, and three HOD Directors, leads the House of Delegates.

Interoperability and Standards Committee

The committee will work with national and international professional organizations that develop health information technology standards to improve health information sharing and interoperability.

Legislative and Public Policy Committee

The LPPC guides the establishment of Academy's public policy work including activities related to federal and state public policy, legislative, and regulatory issues.

Member Services Advisory Committee

The Member Services Advisory Committee provides member-focused feedback on new and current Academy membership benefits, services and products vital to professional success.

Nutrition Care Process and Terminology

The charge to the committee is to advance the Academy's strategic goals aimed at increasing demand for and utilization of services provided by members.

Nutrition Informatics Committee

The NIC is a committee of eight who represent the areas of practice with expertise in nutrition informatics and areas which are impacted by recent health information technology adoption efforts in the U.S.

Nutrition Services Payment Committee

The committee provides oversight and strategic directives for the development, maintenance and communication of nutrition services codes.

Public Health/Community Nutrition Committee

The committee will promote and support issues and activities related to public health nutrition and community nutrition that impact the profession and the Academy.

Quality Management Committee

The QMC provides direction for monitoring, developing, approving, evaluating and maintaining quality management in the practice of dietetics.

Student Advisory Committee

SAC members gain leadership skills that they can use throughout their career and as a possible path to the Academy's district, affiliate and national levels.

Legislative and Public Policy Committee

The Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) guides the establishment of the Academy's public policy work including, but not limited to, activities related to federal and state public policy, legislative, and regulatory issues. The LPPC consists of nine volunteer leaders who serve a staggered three-year term. The President-elect, Speaker of the House and Academy Public Action Committee Chairman serve as ex-officio members for a one-year term. Appointments to the committee follow the calendar year (January-December) and are made by the President and Speaker.

Functions

- Oversee the Academy's advocacy strategies and stances in public policy priority areas.
- Support effective advocacy representations and efforts.
- Participate actively in monthly meetings and during FNCE® and the Public Policy Workshop (PPW).
- Identify Academy expertise and resources in priority areas.
- Identify opportunities to advance nutrition and dietetics in public policy and grassroots initiatives.
- Seek information, positions and guidance of other Academy committees, task forces, workgroups and teams.

Time Commitment

- Meets two times per year (PPW, and another designed time); all expenses paid by the Academy (travel, lodging and per diem).
- Committee meets via conference call 10 times per year.
- The amount of time per month to work on committee projects would be around four to six hours.

Principles and Values for Public Policy Work

The LPPC guides the establishment of the Academy's public policy work including, but not limited to, activities related to national and state public policy, legislative and regulatory issues. To positively impact the health status of Americans, the goals of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) are as follows.

1. To apply and abide by the following principles and values approved by Academy's Board of Directors* in the deliberation of issues associated with the Academy's public policy work. These principles include:
 - Food and nutrition are the foundation of health.

- Sound science and its applications serve as the basis of the Academy's food, nutrition and health policy stances.
 - A safe, nutritionally adequate and personally acceptable diet** must be available to all individuals.
 - Health promotion goes beyond information campaigns, and includes nutrition education for overall health, medical nutrition therapy for disease prevention and treatment, as well as nutrition research to advance the public's knowledge, acceptance and application to improve the nation's nutritional well being.
 - Evidence-based medical nutrition therapy is an integral part of nutrition assessment, disease treatment, management and rehabilitation.
 - Academy's Code of Ethics is the foundation for dietetics practice.
 - Academy's advocacy serves two primary objectives: to enhance the status and role of the profession and to improve the health of the public.
2. To ensure the policy positions and advocacy program reflects these values:
- Food and nutrition policy must be based on reliable scientific evidence, which is disseminated to promote public understanding and adoption of healthful behavior change.
 - Improving the health status of Americans requires a spectrum of programs, which must include nutrition services delivered by dietetics professionals to all segments of the population.
 - A global food supply providing a safe and nutritionally adequate diet needs to be available to all individuals in acceptable forms at reasonable cost.
 - Freedom of choice in personal food preferences is the right of consumers.
 - Consumers need nutrition information, knowledge and skills to make informed food choices.
 - Registered dietitian nutritionists and dietetic technicians, registered provide unique and valuable knowledge and expertise in the delivery of food and nutrition services.
 - Food science and technology can maximize safety and deliver nutrition for optimal health and value to consumers.
 - Food and nutrition research, including monitoring and surveillance, consumer testing and policy evaluation, requires adequate, on-going support.
 - Evidence-based guides for practice are developed and utilized to advance dietetics services that benefit the health of the public cost-effectively.

**Based on the recommendations of the Nutrition Policy Task Force, March 2002.*

***In referring to "diet," the LPPC will consider an overall eating pattern.*

Members and Ex-Officio Members 2013

The Legislative and Public Policy Committee guides the establishment of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' public policy work including, but not limited to, activities related to national and state public policy, legislative and regulatory issues.

Members

- Chair: Lisa Eaton Wright, MS, RDN, LDN
- Vice-Chair: Charlotte Hayes, MS, MMSc, RD, CDE, LD
- Past-Chair: Karen Ehrens, RD, LRD
- Susan Foerster, MPH, RD
- Nicole Fox RD, LMNT, CNSC
- Trish Fuhrman, MS, RD, LD, FADA
- Lorri Holzberg, MA, RDN
- Patricia Keane, MS, RD
- Dianne Polly, JD, RD, LDN

Ex-Officio Members 2013

- **ANDPAC Chair:** Brenda Richardson, MA, RD, LD, CD
- **President-Elect:** Sonja Connor, MS, RDN, LD
- **Speaker of the HOD:** Nancy Lewis, PhD, RDN, FADA
- **Public Health Task Force:** Helene Kent, MPH, RD
- **Staff Partner:** Jeanne Blankenship, MS, RDN

Consumer Protection and Licensure Subcommittee

The Consumer Protection and Licensure Subcommittee (CPLS) is a sub-committee of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC). CPLS guides the strategy of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' advocacy and public policy work in the area of consumer protection and licensure, consistent with the Academy's mission and vision. The CPLS supports the work of the LPPC in achieving the goals of the Academy's advocacy efforts and policy initiatives. Specifically, the CPLS will assist with the Academy's efforts to ensure that consumers have access to qualified professionals who demonstrate the knowledge, skill and competency necessary to provide safe and ethical nutrition therapy. The subcommittee consists of seven members of the Academy. Two ex-officio members will represent the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) and the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. The Academy's President and Speaker of the House of Delegates appoint members for staggered three-year terms.

Functions

- Develop, advance, and evaluate the Academy's consumer protection and licensure strategy.
- Revise and update the Model Practice Act.
- Foster collaboration and consensus between affiliates and the Academy regarding potential bill language and proposed amendments.
- Recommend professional development sessions for CLEAR, PPW, FNCE® and other Academy educational events.
- Identify challenges and solutions to changes in the state and national licensure environments.
- Guide the LPPC in discussions and deliberations related to consumer protection and licensure.

Time Commitment

- Meets once per year; all expenses paid by the Academy (travel, lodging and per diem).
- Committee meets via conference call monthly.
- The amount of time per month to work on committee projects would be around four to six hours.